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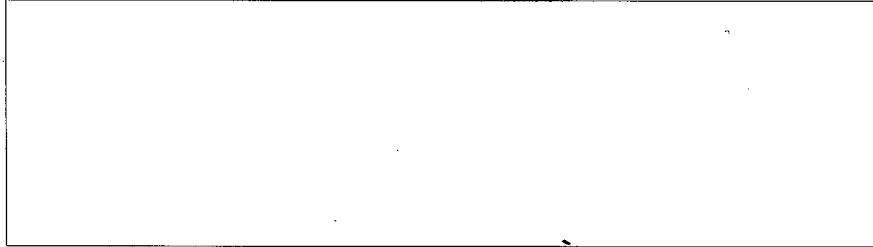
19 October 1973

DCI BRIEFING FOR  
19 OCTOBER WSAG MEETINGTHE MIDDLE EAST

I. The Israelis are continuing to reinforce their  
bridgehead on the west bank of the canal, despite  
Egyptian claims that the force is surrounded  
and being "evicted." The Israelis do not hold  
all the area shown in green on the map. Rather,  
their tank columns are <sup>forming</sup> ~~forming~~ out in lightning  
raids, causing assorted havoc and great con-  
fusion. The force is now said to contain some  
200 tanks, and the Israelis say that more crossed  
the canal last night.

*Data report  
always 300*

A.



B. The Egyptians appear to be stepping up  
operations in the northern sector, possibly  
to ease the pressure around Deversoir.

C. The Israeli air force is supporting ground  
operations on both the west and the east

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banks. Port Said was bombed again this morning, along with some Egyptian air-fields in the northern delta area.

D.

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II. On the Syrian front, there was another quiet night. This morning the Israelis were said to be "improving front line positions" and conducting "sabotage operations" behind enemy lines.

A. There does seem to be a minor battle between Israel and Syrian tanks around Tell Aantar, some ten miles northeast of Al Harrah. Air activity by both sides is somewhat higher this morning than during the comparable period yesterday. We have no reports of significant air strikes or engagements, however. *Today.*

B.

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V. Saudi Arabia has announced a 10 percent cut in oil production. This will amount to about 850,000 barrels a day--and, initially at least, will be applied to all consumers. (There may be a few exceptions for countries with active pro-Arab policies.)

- A. This 10 percent Saudi cut may be matched--or exceeded--by Kuwait, Iraq, Algeria, and Libya.
- B. If all Arab producers apply the 10 percent cutback to all their customers, it would affect 1 percent of US consumption during the first month.